

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the current Application. Claims 26-46 are pending in the current Application. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 24-37 and 41 will have been amended.

In the above-referenced Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 24 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite with respect to the claim language “a condition based on condition information is met.” By the present Reply, claims 24 and 35 have been amended to recite “condition information is satisfied.” Applicants therefore submit that claims 24 and 35 have thus been clarified, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 24 and 35.

Also, upon entry of the present Reply, language amendments will have been made to claims 24-37 and 41 to replace “service control point” with “call processor,” and to overcome grammatical inconsistencies, while not substantially affecting or narrowing the scope of the claims.

Also, in the above-referenced Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 24-46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over KOCH et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,804,716) in view of MCALLISTER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,242). Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejections at least for the reasons stated below.

The KOCH et al. reference generally teaches a method of providing enhanced calling services to a subscriber. The sections of KOCH et al. referenced by the Examiner

disclose a database that “maintains the subscriber’s call management profile” (see col. 5, lines 46-47). However, the call management profile does not store outbound call rule information that is configurable by a user and that includes at least one rule. Thus, the KOCH et al. reference does not teach or suggest “a call processor for controlling an outbound call using outbound call rule information,” nor “a memory that stores outbound call rule information configurable by a user, the outbound call rule information comprising at least one rule relating to processing the outbound call,” recited in claim 24.

Further, the “call management profile” disclosed by KOCH et al. includes calling services, such as call forwarding, call screening, call blocking, and remote event notification (see col. 5, lines 47-50), none of which appear to relate to outbound calls. Additionally, the KOCH et al. reference does not disclose how calls may be routed based on the call management profile, particularly with respect to outbound call rule information.

The Examiner has acknowledged that, with respect to claim 24, the KOCH et al. reference “fails to disclose a sender that sends at least one service control point control message based on action information when a switch message is received and condition information is met,” and has cited the MCALLISTER et al. reference as providing for this feature. MCALLISTER et al. generally disclose identifying a caller via voice analysis and loading corresponding profile information at an SSP office. The teachings of MCALLISTER et al. apply to a personal identification service for incarcerated individuals, and billing associated therewith (see col. 8, lines 11-14).

However, MCALLISTER et al. actually teach away from the features of claim 24. First, the incarcerated users of the MCALLISTER et al. do not appear to be permitted to

configure their own outbound call rule information. Second, the profile information of MCALLISTER et al. is accessed based upon voice identification of the caller. Then, “identification information is transmitted to a predetermined destination or destinations to identify either the person placing the call or the person answering the call” (see col. 7, lines 19-21). The retrieved profile information of MCALLISTER et al. is thus used to restrict calls based on the user’s identity (see col. 14, lines 57-59).

In contrast, Applicants’ claim 24 recites receiving a message at a call processor, in response to an outbound call being placed to a dialed number, specifying the action to take in routing an outbound call based on satisfying a condition (e.g., time of day, called party, dialed number). Claim 24 also recites that the condition is configurable by the user. Generally, the MCALLISTER et al. reference is directed to dealing with billing issues associated with having multiple callers accessing a single subscriber line. On the other hand, claim 24 deals with outbound call routing action taken subsequent to the satisfaction of conditions, wherein both the action and the condition are configurable by user.

Accordingly, no proper combination of KOCH et al. and MCALLISTER et al. teach or suggest the features recited in claim 24.

Further, there is no proper motivation to modify the teachings of KOCH et al. with the teachings of MCALLISTER et al. In this regard, MCALLISTER et al. disclose personalized services based on an identification and verification process in a home incarceration application. In fact, MCALLISTER et al. teach away from routing calls based on outbound call rule information configurable by the user, since the incarcerated user of the MCALLISTER et al. would likely not be permitted to configure their own

outbound call rule information. Therefore, there is no motivation to incorporate the “subscriber call management profiles” of KOCH et al. (which apparently do not include outbound calls) with the teachings of MCALLISTER et al. The only motivation to modify KOCH et al. as suggested by the Examiner would be the improper motivation of obtaining Applicants’ claim 24 in hindsight.

Claim 35 is also allowable over KOCH et al. in view of MCALLISTER et al. for at least substantially the same reasons as noted above with respect to Applicants’ arguments addressing the Examiner’s rejection of claim 24. In this regard, KOCH et al. do not teach or suggest that outbound call rule information “is comprised of at least a portion of the action information and a portion of the condition information,” as recited in claim 35. Rather, as noted above with respect to the rejection of claim 24, KOCH et al. merely generically disclose that a “call management profile may include calling services such as, for example, call forwarding, call screening, call blocking, and remote event notification” (see col. 5, lines 47-50). Further, MCALLISTER et al. do not disclose “sending at least one call processor message based on action information in response to a switch message when condition information is satisfied” (emphasis added) as recited in claim 35. Accordingly, no proper combination of KOCH et al. and MCALLISTER et al. would result in the combination of features recited in claim 35.

With respect to claims 25-34 and 36-46, Applicants assert that the claims are allowable at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 24 and 35, respectively, which Applicants submit have been shown to be allowable. Applicants further submit that each of dependent claims 25-34 and 36-46 are believed to recite further patentable subject matter. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is

deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims from which they depend, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations.

For example, KOCH et al. do not teach or suggest that “the condition information comprises at least one condition related to at least a portion of the dialed number,” as recited in claim 25. Rather, KOCH et al. merely disclose that outgoing calls may be processed based on the subscriber’s outgoing call management profile (see col. 7, line 40 to col. 8, line 5). Further, KOCH et al. do not teach or suggest that “the action information comprises information related to submitting a personal identification (PIN) number,” as recited in claim 27, that “the action information comprises information related to sending a page to a paging device,” as recited in claim 28, that “the action information comprises information related to prepending at least one prefix number to a dialed number sequence,” as recited in claim 30, that “the action information further comprises a dial-around code” and “the action further comprises routing the outbound call via a carrier associated with the dial-around code,” as recited in claim 31, that “at least one rule comprises a plurality of actions,” as recited in claim 32, that “at least one rule comprises a plurality of conditions,” as recited in claim 33, or that “the outbound call rule information comprises a plurality of rules,” as recited in claim 34.

Features of the claims dependent from claim 35 are also not taught or suggested in KOCH et al. For example, KOCH et al. do not teach or suggest “determining whether at least a portion of the dialed number satisfies at least one condition of the outbound call rule information,” as recited in claim 37. Rather, KOCH et al. merely disclose that outgoing calls may be processed based on the “subscriber’s outgoing call management profile” (see col. 7, line 40 to col. 8, line 5). Further, KOCH et al. do not teach or

suggest “receiving a personal identification number (PIN) based on the action information of the outbound call rule information,” as recited in claim 39, that “a page is sent to a paging device based on the action information of the outbound call rule information,” as recited in claim 40, that “at least one prefix number is prepended to a dialed number sequence based on the action information of the outbound call rule information,” as recited in claim 42, that “the action information further comprises a dial-around code,” and “the initiating further comprises routing the outbound call via a carrier associated with the dial-around code,” as recited in claim 43, that “the switch initiates a plurality of actions based on the action information of the rule,” as recited in claim 44, “determining whether outbound call information in the switch message satisfies a plurality of conditions of the rule,” as recited in claim 45, or “determining whether outbound call information in the switch message satisfies conditions of a plurality of rules,” as recited in claim 46.

More particularly, the Examiner has asserted that each of the features of the above-noted dependent claims (i.e., claims 25, 27, 28, 30-35, 37, 39, 40 and 42-46) are disclosed by KOCH et al. at col. 5, lines 46-60. However, this portion of KOCH et al. merely discloses maintaining a call management profile, in general, stating in its entirety:

According to one embodiment, the database 84 maintains the subscriber's call management profile. The subscriber's call management profile may include calling services such as, for example, call forwarding, call screening, call blocking, and remote event notification. The database 84 may contain only the data for the subscriber's call management profile, thus lacking any call processing logic. Such call processing logic, for example, may reside instead with the SCP 44. The subscriber may access his call management profile via the network 76 and the server 82. The server 82 may generate an interface document of the subscriber's call management profile in real-time each time access to the profile is sought. The server 82 may generate the interface document according to different formats depending on the mode of access.

This limited disclosure of KOCH et al. do not teach or suggest the numerous features of the dependent claims, as set forth above. (If the rejection of any of the above-noted dependent claims over KOCH et al. is maintained, Applicants respectfully request citation to the specific teaching (e.g., a direct quotation) of KOCH et al. that is believed to disclose the corresponding features of each claim.)

CONCLUSION

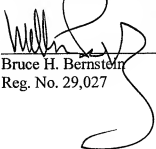
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, and believe that this has now been done. Any amendments to the claims in this Reply, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, would be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Applicants have discussed the features recited in Applicants' claims, and have shown how the combination of features recited in Applicants' claims are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the references applied in the Official Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, as well as an indication of the allowance of each of the pending claims, is respectfully requested.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions regarding this Response, any representative of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas McBLAIN et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33630

February 23, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191